



“Be courageous; be strong. Do everything in love”.

Monday 18th November 2024

Dear Parents and Carers,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to provide you with an overview of how we support children with Special Educational Needs (SEN) at St Mary's C of E Primary School.

At St Mary's, we are committed to creating an inclusive and supportive environment where every child can thrive. Our approach to supporting children with SEN is rooted in our strong Christian ethos of care, empathy, and understanding. We aim to ensure that each child is valued and given the right support to help them reach their full potential.

We work closely with various external agencies, including Oakfield Pupil Referral Unit, Autism Outreach, ADHD solutions, and other NHS providers, to support the wellbeing of children and families and to prevent school and social exclusion. Our staff have received Team Teach training to ensure they are equipped to manage and support children with SEN effectively.

Our SEN provision includes:

- **Personalised Learning Plans:** Each child with SEN has a personalised learning plan tailored to their specific needs. These plans are reviewed and updated to ensure they are effective. These are known as SEN pupil profiles. These will be shared with you so that you can know your child's personalised targets.
- **Professional Support:** We have a dedicated team of professionals, including SENCOs and specialist teachers within the Trust, who work closely with children, parents, and other staff members to provide the necessary support.
- **Inclusive Teaching:** Our approach to teaching is inclusive, ensuring that all children, regardless of their needs, have access to a broad and balanced curriculum. We use a variety of teaching strategies, scaffolds, and resources to support children with SEN in their learning.
- **Emotional Support for SEN Children**
At St Mary's, we recognise the importance of emotional support for children with Special Educational Needs (SEN). We work closely with outside agencies to support children with complex difficulties, including those who display anti-social responses to emotional stress and anxiety.

Our approach includes:

- **Counselling and Therapy Services:** We provide access to counselling through Cat Creative for children who need additional emotional support. These services help children develop coping strategies and build resilience.
- **Social Skills Groups:** We run social skills groups to help children with SEN develop positive relationships and improve their social interactions. These groups provide a safe space for children to practice and enhance their social skill.

Additionally, we follow a **graduated approach** to supporting children with SEN, as outlined in the SEND Code of Practice 2014. This approach involves a phased framework to identify and address the needs of each child. The six phases are not automatically linear; children may start at the most appropriate phase or be fast-tracked based on their needs. If a child is not making expected progress or has specific challenges, teachers will raise a concern with myself as SENCO and parents, and the child's progress will be closely monitored.

We are also aware of the frustration that can arise from extensive delays in accessing outside services such as paediatricians and Speech and Language Therapy (SALT). Please be assured that we are equally as frustrated, and we are doing everything we can to support your child while waiting for these services and will continue to advocate for timely access to the necessary resources.

We are proud of the inclusive environment we have created at St Mary's and are committed to continuing to improve our support for children with SEN. If you have any questions or would like to discuss your child's needs further, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Thank you for your continued support.

Warm regards,



L Oakes
Head Teacher, SENCO

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